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C C C O U N
T R Y
L O N D O N
HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP
DEAL CASTLE

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COMMANDED BY

CAPT. JAMES HAWKINS

OF THE ISLAND OF PORTO RICO, DURING THE HURRICANE IN THE WEST-INDIES, IN THE YEAR 1712

L O N D O N

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ADVERTISEMENT.

TH E following short account of the loss of one of his Majesty's ships of war, is taken from a diary which the author, who was among the sufferers, kept, immediately after the disaster, while it yet, with all its accompanying circumstances, remained fresh in his remembrance; and it would have been published sooner had not his absence from England prevented it.

Although perhaps there are scenes of greater distress than are here related, to be found in the journals of
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other navigators, yet the benevolent reader will nevertheless think that the crew of the *DEAL CASTLE* had their full proportion of sufferings, nor fail to partake of mental satisfaction at their narrow escape from an imminent danger.

The author makes no apology for the lateness of the publication. If the narrative would have gratified the mind of the curious or humane, had it appeared at an earlier period, it surely cannot fail, in some degree, of producing that effect now.

London, Dec. 1786.

FOR some weeks previous to the hurricane of the year 1780, which did so much damage in the West Indies; both by sea and land, his Majesty's ship Deal Castle, commanded by Capt. James Hawkins, together with the Cameleon sloop of war, were lying in Gros-islet bay, in the island of St. Lucia. Fortunately the main body of the fleet, under Sir George Rodney, had sailed to the coast of America, and only a few ships remained with Commodore Hotham, in the harbour of the Carenage. Two days preceding the hurricane, the sky appeared dull and lowring, from which the inhabitants prognosticated the approach of tempestuous weather. On the 9th of October some rain fell; and about mid-
B night

night it came to blow very fresh. Sixty men, with a Lieutenant and an officer of marines, from the Deal Castle, were on duty a-shore ; and there remained a-board the Captain, Mr. Nichols, the Master, Mr. Bengé, a gentleman who was visiting us, Myself, Mr. —, a Midshipman, and about 100 men. About two, the wind having greatly increased, the cable of the Deal Castle parted, and another anchor was let go. At ten it was thought necessary to let go the sheet anchor. We were riding about two cables length a-head of the Cameleon ; after a short time, we drove almost along side of her ; but veering away cable brought up again ; and in this situation both vessels remained for several hours. All this time the wind continued to increase, but kept in one direction, about E. and by N. Its violence exceeded description : its roar was deafening : nature seemed to exhaust her whole force, had not every succeeding blast proved the contrary. The rain at the same time fell in torrents, and the horizon was obscured

scured with a thick fog. In this unpleasing suspense we lay, expecting every moment our cable to part, and that we should be driven to sea ; for the wind blew directly off the shore. This was indeed a fortunate circumstance. A shift of wind, which frequently happens, and indeed is reckoned by some as part of the characteristic of a hurricane, would have been fatal to us. About four in the afternoon we perceived the Cameleon to be driving ; she attempted to carry a sail, and to cast* to the northward, there being some danger from a point of land to the southward, but her sail was instantly rent in pieces. She soon disappeared to our view, on account of the haziness of the day. But previous to this event, Captain Johnson, her commander, waved his handkerchief to Captain Hawkins, on bidding him adieu. It was a last adieu. The Cameleon was never heard of after-

* To cast is to get the ship's head from the wind, to bring her under management.

wards ; nor did any of her crew survive to relate the circumstances of her disaster.

In about an hour we followed her to sea ; but Providence had not destined us to share her melancholy fate.

About this time the wind veered a little to the northward, and we were in the most imminent hazard of running upon a rock which lies out from the South point of the bay. Every exertion was made to clear this danger, by endeavouring to set first the fore, then the main stay-sail ; but the canvas was utterly unable to stand the impetuosity of the wind, and the sails were shattered into ribbands even in hoisting, and of course became useless. We nevertheless drove clear of the danger, and got presently to sea. The rage of the wind, the tumult of the waves, an intense darkness, except when relieved by repeated flashes of lightning, the shattered sails flapping in the wind,
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and equalling in noise the explosion of ordnance, formed a scene sufficiently dismal. The water began to increase in the hold, notwithstanding the pump was constantly in action. The sea gushed in at the ports and scuttles, which fitted badly, and were very crazy. While some were engaged to stop this, a circumstance still more alarming called for fresh exertions. The pump on the lee side burst, and was rendered useless. The ship heeled so much that the water had deserted the weather pump, and when the hands applied to it, and found it would not work, they concluded it was also broke. This occasioned a sudden panic among the seamen, for they thought the evil was irremediable, and that the ship must presently go down. It was not without difficulty, and even severity, that they were roused from their stupidity, to obey the orders of their officers. Hand pumps were brought; but by some unlucky neglect, they were out of repair. New valves

were wanting to them, and the leather of which these were to be made was mislaid. During these delays the water gained upon us. We endeavoured to wear ship by tarpaulins on the fore shrouds, but without effect. In the mean time the main-top-mast went over the side, and the master, who was on deck, with some of the best seamen, was unable to clear it but by cutting away the main-mast and all, which the Captain ordered to be done. The carpenter had endeavoured in vain to repair the pump, and though a man of skill, the exigency of the case had hurried his spirits, and he began to despond. We here saw the importance in time of danger of a composed mind. Had Captain Hawkins at this moment chid or reproached the carpenter, it would have increased his hurry, and the accident would probably have proved fatal. On the contrary, the Captain regretted his want of success, desired he would examine the pump again, and

and try if any thing could be done to it, but not to be troubled about the event. The artist thus encouraged recovered himself, attempted the business again, and succeeded. He found means to nail a piece of lead, under water, on the part of the pump which had given way, and we found, on working it, that the water did not gain upon us. Still, however, we were in imminent danger from the stern post, which seemed ready to yield to the violent shocks it incessantly received. At length the morning succeeded to an anxious night, and never did morning receive a heartier welcome. It brought with it some omission of the tempest, and came the harbinger of our deliverance from the danger which had threatened us, but we had new ones in reserve. It soon became necessary to attend to the state of the ship, which was indeed a perfect wreck. All the masts, the fore-mast excepted, gone; the lee barricado and railing carried away; dead lights and stern windows stove in; our furni-

furniture and provisions destroyed; our beds and trunks filled with water. On the whole, after the first emotions of our joy at the returning dawn had subsided, we found our condition not a little unpromising, and neither conveniency nor opportunity for the repose we so much needed. We accommodated ourselves as well as we could to these events, by suffering patiently what we could not remedy.

It was ordered to shape a course for Jamaica; the foresail was set, and we bore up. It still blew very hard. No observation could be obtained, no land had been ascertained for a departure; and the current had set us considerably out of our reckoning. In our course we came up with two French vessels. At a time when the elements were at war, it should seem that hostilities between nation and nation should be suspended, and men endeavour mutually to render good offices, and to relieve

lieve each other. But far from feeling such sentiments, the hopes of a capture animated every man ; both vessels however escaped us by hauling on a wind. Indeed the enemy might have turned the tables upon us, as they were stoutly armed, and might easily have kept on our quarters, in which case we could have done them very little damage, and must have been entirely exposed to their fire. We afterwards met with one of their Captains, who told us he *intended* to have done so, if his companion had seconded him.

On the 18th it was thought that the following evening we should see the Island of Hispaniola, which it was desirable to do in order to get a good departure. This evening we had passed cheerfully over a bowl of arrack punch, anticipating pleasures of Jamaica, where we hoped soon to arrive. Short-sighted mortals !

The Master had the watch upon deck. The other officers had turned in.

in to their hammocks without beds. But this circumstance did not at all prevent refreshing rest, which we began to enjoy, when it was suddenly interrupted by a violent shock of the ship striking, which appeared to be a summons to instant fate. The ship now fell on one side as if overset; the waves covered the deck, and poured down the hatchways in torrents; the gun-room ports were dashed in, and all appeared to be lost. A general scream, anticipating our approaching fate, was heard; afterwards some were silent and resigned. Captain Hawkins's voice alone gave some comfort. No time was to be lost; in the same instant we awaked, we fled naked to the upper deck, not with any hope of escape, but by a spontaneous impulse, as to the last refuge. It was with difficulty we effected this; the sluices of water which poured down frequently beating us back as we attempted to ascend. It was a fleet storm, and blew very strong. Although this was not a time for indulgence, yet the cold was so intense, although

though within the tropics, that the fate we had fled from seemed less severe than the piercing air to our bodies, for we had no covering but our shirts. I ventured below again, at all hazards, to obtain some covering, and got hold of a wet blanket from my hammock ; the water below was now knee deep, and I made haste to regain the upper deck with my prize. Some moments of anxious suspense past. We did not imagine ourselves to be near any land ; the ship had evidently struck, but we concluded it must have been on a sunken rock, from whence we could have no escape. We did not however entirely despair, but hoped to abide some time by the wreck, and have the chance of succour. After some time the squall began to abate, and we imagined we perceived land, at a little distance to leeward, and this gave us fresh spirits. At this time a sick man below had perished, refusing his companions offers of assistance as of no avail. The ship in a short time entirely filled,
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and the gunnel was near to the level of the water. It happened that the side from which the quarter-deck barricado had been carried away, was now to windward. This circumstance exposed us to the unremitted violence of the weather and waves, which beat over us. Every one was obliged to secure as firm a hold as he could, and sometimes a heavy sea drove us over each other, and to the opposite side of the deck, where luckily the barricado stood firm; even our danger could not prevent a smile at the ludicrous situation this produced.

When we were assured that we were in reality near to land, the boats were got out, but few chose to venture in them, the landing being uncertain. Rafts were next constructed, and went off one after another; but fewer went on these than might have done.

During the unavoidable delay, we occasionally sought what little shelter we could

could find from the cold, and the sea itself was some relief from this inconvenience; for the water felt luke warm, owing to the greater cold produced on our skins by the air. We esteemed it a pleasure to lye all along, holding fast by the ship, and immerse the body under the waves that washed over us. I had placed myself behind the capston*. Capt. Hawkins, fatigued with his exertions, after some time sat down by me to refresh himself if possible, and partake of my shelter. He wanted stockings and shoes, and his feet were red with cold, which I perceiving, offered him a corner of my blanket to cover them, and it proved a luxury which he has often mentioned since.

The art of our necessities is strange,
That can make vile things precious.

As day approached we could perceive a number of our men on shore; the beach was sandy to leeward, but about

* A machine employed in weighing the anchor.

a furlong to windward lay a reef of rocks, and a tremendous rocky shore, on which had it been our fate to strike, nothing could have saved us. Three rafts had been successively launched, but a number of men yet remained on the wreck. The fourth raft it was supposed was the last which there were materials to construct. On this the Captain, with the officers, intended to embark, having already done every thing in their power for the crew. But when the Captain was preparing to go, the cowards, who from fear had neglected the former opportunities, now more afraid of being left behind, crowded on it in such numbers, as compelled the Captain to relinquish his purpose. A fifth raft was at last made with no small difficulty, and on this the officers got safe on shore. From an apprehension of being washed off the raft, and compelled to swim, I had disencumbered myself of my shirt and friendly blanket, folding them up in a bundle, which I endeavoured to carry in
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my hand, but presently lost. It required all our care and firmness to keep ourselves on ; for the waves washed over us incessantly, scarce giving us intervals to breathe.

Inexpressible were our feelings when we found ourselves on dry land. Our hearts paid a spontaneous tribute of thanksgiving to a superior power. The tear of joy and congratulation glistened in our eyes, as we embraced each other ; and it was not till we had escaped from it, that we felt the magnitude of our past danger. We now learned that two men had been drowned from a former raft. Some things necessary to our present circumstances had been driven on shore from the wreck ; amongst these were two small hogs, that had somehow survived, and a little keg of rum. The liquor was served out at an allowance in a shell. We willingly accepted our portion. A dozen men, who were afraid of trusting them-

themselves to the raft, remained at this time clinging to the wreck.

The joy of our deliverance was soon abated by thoughts of our present condition, which was at first view infinitely worse than when we were on board. We were entirely ignorant where we were, and the appearance of the land bespoke it uninhabited and barren. Most of us were almost stark naked, some altogether so, and we had no shelter from the tempest, which continued violent.

We did not, thus situated, give way to despair. The Captain detached reconnoitering parties, different ways, to obtain information. The rest set to work, in order to convert into shelter two boats which the surf had cast on shore.

A few hours relieved one part of our anxiety. One of the parties that had been on the look out, returned with two
men

men whom they had fallen in with. These men were Spaniards, and informed us that we were upon the Island of Porto Rico. Our new friends already began to look wistfully on the wreck, and I doubt not thanked their tutelary saint for such a present. By means of a Portuguese among our men, who was indeed a bad interpreter, we were given to understand that we had not fallen among Turks, but good Christians, who would treat us with hospitality.

There being a town at a few miles distance, our whole troop set off for it, under the conduct of the two Spaniards, not a little rejoiced at this favourable change in our condition. We found some inconvenience in walking bare foot, but consoled ourselves with the hope of getting this, and our other wants supplied at the place we were going to, which I represented to myself to be as big as Portsmouth at least, rather measuring by

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my wishes than by any ground of probability. I felt however mortified at the wretched figure our troop would make on its entry, and though so lately we had reason to be thankful for our lives, we could now have been glad that a little decent covering had been added to the boon. Such is man ! It was not however so bad as the reader may imagine ; for although many of us came on shore in the dress of our first parents, others had all their cloaths, and they lent to the destitute ; so there was not one perfect Adam in our company ; but several whose whole dress did not exceed the fig-leaf state.

What was our disappointment when we found the town reduced to a few miserable scattered huts ! Among these our company were dispersed, and got such scanty refreshment as the poor people had to give. As we advanced to our quarters, an old man met us with looks of benignity ; he smiled, and shook us

cordially by the hand. 'Twas a smile of welcome, not of insult ; but we saw him not again.

The family in our hut, consisted of an old fisherman, his wife, a girl of eighteen, and some children. Our repast consisted of roasted plantains, and some fat pork fried in small pieces. The people were civil enough to give up their bed to us ; it was a kind of platform of withs, raised about two feet high along the whole side of the cottage, and served all the family. Our meal had been neither delicate nor plentiful, but reposing ourselves on this bed, we presently fell into a sound sleep, a comfort we had long wanted.

At this place the poor wretches we had left on the wreck joined us, having all got away safe by the assistance of the Spaniards when the storm abated.

We learned here, that the Governor lived at a great distance, at St. John's, the capital of the island ; and that a messenger had been dispatched to him for orders concerning us. In the mean while, on the third day of our landing, we were conducted to a more populous place, where our company could be better accommodated.

Report paints the characters of the people on this coast in the most unfavourable colours ; nor are their countrymen at St. John's more sparing of them. They carry on an illicit trade ; indeed all trade is illicit here that is not with the mother country. Those who carry merchandize to this place, say the people will frequently seize the vessel and murder the crew, if they can get on board in sufficient numbers ; for which reason, they are cautious not to admit many at a time. Our appearance presented nothing to tempt their cupidity. They took care indeed to secure what trifling value could be

be saved from the wreck ; some things they obtained by diving, which they must be acknowledged to have earned ; and on the whole we had no reason to complain of them.

During our stay in this place, we endeavoured to manufacture some shoes, against our approaching march. Our materials for this purpose consisted of some dried hogs skin, the bark of a tree for an end, and a knife for an awl ; but it answered badly. Captain Hawkins, who on the first day's journey had cut his foot so badly as to be incapable of walking, was provided with a mule.

A goodly shew we made, when our whole company was assembled, with the guides, to proceed on our journey. First in the cavalcade was a Spaniard on horseback, as chief guide. Next, our Captain mounted, not with boots and spurs, but without stockings or shoes, or coat, or waistcoat, or hat. The other officers on

foot, some with their hog's-skin shoes; rags wrapped gracefully round adorned the feet of others. One man wore a white shirt without other cloathing. Another a check shirt. A seaman's jacket was the whole dress of the third. A fourth wanted both shirt and jacket, but then he could boast of a pair of trowsers. A fifth had his faculties exercised to dispose of a handkerchief to the best advantage, it being all the cloathing he possessed. I omit to describe all the crew, some of the meanest of whom however were better dressed than their officers.

Several Spaniards on foot acted as assistant guides, and thus we commenced our march; the Spaniards constantly crying *Poco, poco* * ! and the seamen replying with d——g their eyes.

We had nothing for it but to make merry with our new condition. Our

* Gently.

dress

dress and appearance gave occasion to mutual pleasantry and railleries. As we were now quite at his excellency the Governor's disposal, we had little to care for, and we were as jolly and as jovial as can be imagined.

After a march of about fifteen miles, we arrived at a small village, where we remained two or three days. We had here a better house than our former, but worse lodging, having nothing but the bare boards to lie on. We had practised involuntarily great abstinence in diet for some time past, for which reason it was no unwelcome news brought to us by an ecclesiastic, the bishop of the diocese, that he had ordered a sheep at his own expence to be killed for the officers. The Captain directed it to be equally divided among the whole crew, so that our repast was not at all profuse.

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A little after we had dined, a good looking man announced himself to us with a respectful bow. He led by the hand a little boy, who brought something tied up in a clean napkin. There never was seen a truer picture of benevolence than in this man's face. I am ashamed of myself for having forgot his name, and lost the paper on which I had it written in his own hand. He opened his napkin, and produced a large jug of coffee, some basons and spoons, and some roasted plantains. His little boy and he served these out to each of us, and then the elder sat looking with evident symptoms of pleasure and delight while we partook of his cheer. This good friend frequently repeated these very welcome donations.

Hence we were conducted farther up the country, where our stay was near three weeks. The island in general is luxuriantly fertile; but having no commerce, there is small population or industry;

try; cultivation is check'd by an interdiction to purchase slaves. The soil, with little labour, produces abundance for the supply of its inhabitants. The sugar-cane here is far superior in size to that of any British island, as indeed are most other productions of the ground. Coffee is in such abundance, that every one gathers it as they want, without regarding who is the proprietor. In the orange and lime-tree groves, great quantities of the fruit drop from the trees and rot for want of gathering. Butchers meat is also in great plenty, four pounds of beef is worth sixpence English money, and other provisions in proportion. There is a long range of high mountains in this island, the source of several rivers that meander through the plains. The peasants, having no incitement to industry, are the most indolent people in the world, and were it not for their soldiers and priests, might be the happiest. Both these classes lord it over the natives, and carry the despotism of the church and state into the regions of peace and tran-

tranquility. Such is the opinion of the planters in the other American islands of the fertility of this, that a subscription of money and provisions, to a very great amount, was offered to Sir George Brydges Rodney, as an aid if he should think proper to attack it with the British forces.

Had the Admiral known the condition of the place on his first arrival in the West Indies, it is possible he might have undertaken the enterprize. The fortifications at St. John's are indeed immensely strong; but at this juncture it was both ill garrisoned, and ill supplied with stores. There were but two months provisions in the town. The communication with the country, whence the garrison was supplied daily, might have been cut off with no very considerable force; and if our fleet had been able to prevent supplies by sea, St. John's must have surrendered, and the whole island of course with it. The garrison itself was
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in great trepidation, expecting an attack, and every little fleet of merchant-ships that came in sight was thought to be the British squadron. Spain had been tardy in her reinforcements, and these at last were very near falling into the hands of the English. Sir George came up with the rear of the Spanish convoy, which had two compleat regiments of fourteen hundred men each on board, and took one or two of the vessels. But I am wandering from the purpose of this narrative.

The spot we were now in was a beautiful plain, intersected by a pretty considerable river. The huts of the peasants were built at small distances from each other. The weather was delightful, and we amused ourselves with visiting the neighbouring cottagers, and philandering the rural maidens. The inhabitants everywhere received us kindly, gave us such cheer as they had, and segars to smoke. They were very inquisitive, but their questions were in Spanish, which we

understood very well, and answered them in the same manner.

answered in English, to the great satisfaction of both parties. The girls are generally well made, have good features, eyes black, and animated. Their hair of the same colour, thick and long. They wear this in a plait down the whole length of the back, ornamented at the end with a bow of some fancy-coloured ribband, and another on the crown of the head. Their complexions indeed do not retain much of the lily ; children of the sun, the god of day has marked them for his own.

Every officer had separate quarters assigned him, and the men were distributed in pairs. The Captain's apartments were our head quarters. Each of us had one or more sun-burnt maidens at his hut, to console us for the mortification of being prisoners, and to preserve us against *ennui*. In truth, some of the women were beautiful. They compassionated our case. They did us a thousand kind offices, by their attentions for our amusement ; and at length we came
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to take an interest in them. The mind accommodates itself to its situation; these kind-hearted females were considerate of ours. In compensation for the want of understanding each other's conversation, they permitted innocent freedoms, which Spanish reserve forbids in general betwixt the sexes. Even the parents excused our liberties; *they are English*, said they. In fine, though we were anxious for our departure, the delay became less irksome. I am not ashamed to confess, that I entertained serious thoughts of taking up my abode in these arcadian fields. What an immensity of pain and solicitude shall I escape by quitting the world and its pursuits, said I to myself. What calm and uninterrupted happiness shall I not here enjoy! here are no clashing interests, no rival jealousy of fame. I shall enjoy abundance, even to luxury, with little or no labour. The orange grove near my hut offers its almost perpetual treasures, ever grateful, and ever new. The inhabitants of the three elements

ments present themselves to diversify my table. The plantain is excellent bread, if roasted before it is ripe, and no less excellent fruit when ripe. Here is my Polonia too; young, beautiful, susceptible. With whom could I expect greater happiness? She has 'tis true no education. So much the better; she has no deceit. In such reveries as these I frequently indulged myself as I wandered barefooted along the pleasant banks of the river, and with no other apparel than a pair of trousers and a check shirt. But a violent dispute, which ended in bloodshed*, between two creole Spaniards about their genealogy; some instances of family discontent; and observing one day a couple of soldiers to stop at a cottage, and order a brace of fowls to be killed for them, for which they paid never a farthing; I gave up my romantic notions,

* These people always carry a kind of cutlass about them, and an implement for cutting down the long grass and weeds.

and

and resolved to take Old England for better and for worse.

'Twas not however without a pang that many of us left this delicious country, and its charming maidens. It was the tearing asunder those cords which good-will and courtesy twine round the heart. But it was soon over, and the thoughts of home made other ideas preponderate.

Our kind hosts had of their own accord provided each of the officers with a horse for the first day's journey, as the last mark of their friendship.

On the morning of our departure, I indulged my emotions, which indeed are but faintly expressed, in the following Stanzas. If the reader will accept them for the occasion's sake (for their own they are not worth his acceptance), they are at his service.

Adieu

ADIEU ye smiling peaceful plains,
 Where innocence for ever reigns ;
 Ye blooming bow'rs, and golden groves,
 The fav'rite haunt of rustic loves.

On hostile shore our wayward lot
 Found no inhospitable cot ;
 Our enemies our sorrows cheer,
 And drop a sympathetic tear.

Ev'n here the rude, untutor'd mind
 Extends its love to human kind ;
 To feel a stranger's grief it knows,
 It melts and shares in human woes.

Adieu ye maids, adieu ye swains,
 Enjoy in peace your smiling plains ;
 Enjoy your innocence serene,
 And love that haunts your sylvan scene:

And thou Pollonia, sweetly mild,
 Who still my laggard hours beguil'd,
 With cheering smiles, and graceful air,
 And tendance glad, and kindly care,

Accept this tribute of a sigh,
 This tear that trembles in my eye.
 Remembrance oft thy kindness shall renew;
 And oft thy gentle form be present to my view.

On

Our march was retrogade, precisely back to the village from whence we had formerly set out. We afterwards learned the reason of this. Orders had come from the Governor at this place, which was our way to St. John's, to conduct us over the mountains, by a difficult and unfrequented path, in order to prevent our gaining a knowledge of the plain country, and be able to serve as guides to an enemy.

We rested here a day in order to prepare ourselves for a journey over the mountains. It proved to be the most fatiguing one we ever experienced. The weather was hot and dry. The mountains were very high. Our road was by a foot path, narrow, steep, and interrupted by rifts, and fallen trees. On one side was a frightful precipice below; on the other a precipice over our heads. We began the ascent with too much alacrity, and were nearly exhausted before we reached the summit. We halted, proceeded

ceeded, and halted and proceeded again. We were thirsty and faint, and still the mountain appeared to be a great height above us. We cast our eyes wistfully back towards the place of our late abode. The heat became more intense, the drought more distressing. Shall I mention it? I know no reason why I should not. Some among us were on the point of drinking from a source which nature did not design to allay mens' thirst. The anguish of the Captain's foot increased his distress, for although we had mules, we could not use them in this tract. At length a solitary lime tree appeared in view, and half a dozen limes upon it served to give a short relief to the most needy. We now continued our exertions, when beyond hope, some of the foremost of our people having gained the summit, eagerly cried out water, having first moistened their own mouths with a little of it. The very sound refreshed us, and we hasted to realize the pleasure. This water was no other than what was deposited in the tracts of the
mules

mules in the soil, which was clayey, by the clouds, which almost continually envelope the mountain top.

Presently, however, this welcome circumstance began in another view to give us no small trouble. Our road lay for fifteen miles on the very ridge of the mountain, through a continued bog, our mules plunging and falling in such a manner, that most of us gave them up to the guides to lead. After we had begun to despond, we got into an extensive wood, inhabited principally by wild boars, an animal which abounds in the uncleared parts of many of the Caribbee Islands. At length we came to the borders of human habitations; we heard the barking of dogs in a village at the foot of the mountains, and by the light of the moon began to distinguish houses below us. A Captain of militia had given us to understand that our journey would be fatiguing, but that at the end of it we should meet with suitable refreshment;

and now the hopes of finding these promises speedily fulfilled, added the last succours to our nearly exhausted spirits. But judge our surprise, when we found ourselves ushered into a skeleton of a house without roof or walls, much less with inhabitants and accommodations, and not even so much as common conveniences for the men. On this occasion a general murmur broke forth without reserve, and we should soon have furnished ourselves with quarters by force, had not our friendly guide procured us better lodging to prevent mischief.

We were lavish of reproaches on the Captain's treachery, but discovered on the following day that we did him injustice.

The good cheer was a few miles further on, but our late arrival at this village was the reason of our not proceeding farther the same night, and here they were wholly unprepared for so many guests.

guests. We reached our proposed hotel on the following morning. It was a large and commodious farm house. The horn of plenty seemed to have been emptied around it. Corn, fruit, wine, and oil, abounded. Cattle were grazing in the neighbouring meadows, and the knife soon prepared some for our entertainment.

It was actually the house of our friend the Captain. His people gave us a cordial welcome. Some neighbours assembled to see the strangers, and all were in perfect good humour. Two days journey more brought us to St. John's. All along on our march we diverted ourselves with such incidents as occurred. We were cheerful with the males, and gay with the females; but never found that we gave offence. We carefully avoided whatever might seem like a flight of the established religion. Nevertheless a complaint had been exhibited against us by a bigotted priest, who filled a large sheet of paper, complaining that the virtue of the

women was in danger, and their holy faith scandalized by our practices; with a number of other particulars utterly false. This circumstance we afterwards learned. It at first produced no other effect on the Governor than a hearty laugh. It was however the reason why our parole, when we got it, at St. John's, was limited to the town, and we were not permitted to go without the gates, till our departure altogether from the place.

About six miles from this city, we were met by an Irish gentleman, who has a plantation near the road, to which he conducted our whole company, giving some refreshment to each. He is, I understood, the only planter in the island, allowed as a foreigner this privilege for some services he had rendered the state.

The good treatment we had in general experienced in the country, gave us favourable prepossessions of our reception at the capital, but we reckoned without our host.

host. It was on Sunday in the afternoon when we arrived on the draw-bridge before the gate of St. John's. We had rode joyfully along among crouds of ladies, officers, priests, and citizens, who were walking in the meadows, and who hastened after us to the draw-bridge. Here we were detained a full hour and half, a spectacle affording no small speculation to this gay, gazing tribe. We were surprised at the delay, but concluded for certain that a palace was preparing for us, when behold a guard of soldiers made their appearance, and without ceremony, causing the horsemen to dismount, marched us back about a mile to a prison. It was a large stone building, a long square, used sometimes as a powder-house; it was now cleared, but not *cleaned* for our reception. Here, without table or chair, bed or bolster, we were all turned in, officers and men, pell mell; consigned over to our own reflections, and the softest stones we could find for our resting places.

We now began to think there might be something of truth in the character our country friends had given us of the Governor, that he was a savage, brutal fellow. Some of my friends really feared that he would cut all our throats as soon as we should arrive at St. John's. His very name inspired terror into the whole island. In fact, our situation was exchanged infinitely for the worse on coming into his hands. We did not doubt, however, that a proper remonstrance on our part would soon produce an alteration. A hard lodging was not new to us, and we did not fail to get even here into a sound sleep which lasted till morning. We were awaked by the noise occasioned by the opening of our prison doors, and a Spanish officer coming in, enquired in French who among us were the officers. We had not yet suffered affliction enough to humble us. The officers all lay nearest to the door, but we answered only by raising our heads a little to view the cause of our disturbance, and then composed our-

ourselves again. As he persisted in his enquiry, Captain Hawkins at length told him, that the officers did not wish to be disturbed so early in the morning; and as his Catholick Majesty had been pleased to allot them that place, they wished to possess it in quiet, and begged him to withdraw. He seemed hurt, and in the most civil manner entreated we would believe him a friend to the English nation; that his desire to serve us was the sole motive of his visit; that he came without any order from the Governor; that the Governor was misinformed concerning us; begged we would accompany him to the guard-room, and every thing would soon be rectified. We went to his guard-room. He wrote to the Governor what he had done, and Captain Hawkins dictated a message to this purpose:—That he was commander of a ship of war in the service of his Britannick Majesty, which had been wrecked on the island; that he demanded the conveyance of dispatches to some British island, in which he would
inform

inform his Court of the indignity with which he was treated, contrary to the laws of war betwixt civilized countries ; and that retaliation would certainly take place on the numerous Spaniards at that time prisoners to Great Britain. This message produced an interview, in which the English Captain repeated his demand and his threat.

It now appeared that our vessel had been represented as a privateer, and that to this mistake was owing the little ceremony shewn us. This point being cleared up, the parole was granted as usual to king's officers, and the customary allowance of provisions ordered for our people.

The manners of the Governor corresponded very well to his character. The officers about him said every thing which humanity and politeness could dictate. Captain Hawkins thought it right not to pass over the outrage he had received too hastily,

hastily, and therefore refused the most pressing invitations to accompany Colonel Sherring to his house. At length, as the Colonel turned from him, he heard him whisper to another officer, *Voila l'hauteur Angloise*. To shew that an Englishman could be polite as well as firm, our Captain turned about and accepted his offer. Nor would this worthy man afterwards suffer Captain Hawkins to quit his house. The same gentleman shewed also many civilities to us all.

We were led blindfold into the town to receive our parole, and then took up our quarters at an hotel. There was a very considerable merchant here, a native of Ireland, Mr. O'Daly, who having some knowledge of Captain Hawkins's family, offered us cash for our bills on London, upon his indorsement. This was an accommodation we had not expected. A French gentleman at our hotel also accommodated us all

with washing suits after the West India fashion, till we could supply ourselves with better; and after passing under the hands of a friseur, we were in some condition to receive the officers of the garrison, who now crowded upon us to stare at, make their civilities, tender their services, fortunes and all.

When our levee was over, we presently had a new one of all the different orders of tradesmen which go to the finishing of a man. Taylors, shoe-makers, valets-de-chambre, appeared by dozens; twenty messengers were running about for ready-made shirts, stockings, neckcloths, buckles, ribands, hats, cockades, handkerchiefs, &c. &c. all in the newest taste. Hey-dey! what a noise! Be sure get my coat finished by to-morrow morning. This shoe is too short in the quarter. The cock of this hat don't please me. Those ruffles are not deep enough, and the cambrick is horridly coarse. You, Sir, get me a lace put on this hat; I
can't

can't stir out till it is done. Those uniform buttons must be got ; enquire everywhere. This hair-dresser is a scoundrel, I'll employ him no more. Our fortune had changed ! How rapidly her wheel had turned ! The prison and the stone bed of the former night were now old events of half a dozen years standing ! We, who were lately miserable gazing stocks on the draw-bridge, half naked, and refused admittance into the city, in two hours figured among the beaux of the place, and were complimented and caressed by its principal inhabitants.

We remained at St. John's about five weeks, waiting for the cartel. In the mean time we got acquainted with many of the officers, who paid us frequent visits, and partook of our convivial bowl. Previous to our departure, we resolved on making a general acknowledgment to the garrison by a handsome dinner. We invited about sixty officers of all ranks, and upwards of fifty did us the honour to attend.

attend. Our table was plentiful and well served. A band of music encouraged the eager Spaniards to the attack. The wine circulated freely, and the festive board began to resound with innocent mirth; when at this period a jealousy of a peculiar nature arose to disturb the minds of our social guests. In the openness of their hearts, the Spaniards began to consider the occasion of all this feasting. Are these the Englishmen we saw the other day naked at our gates, claiming our hospitality? Now they are entertaining us sumptuously, and teaching us what we ought to have practised to them. Who among us has opened his door to them, in order to alleviate their captivity by the balm of friendship? Mutual reproaches now took place among themselves. " 'Twas your place, Sir." " No, Sir, 'twas yours;" " my house was repairing;" " my wife was sick." All excuses seemed contemptible in their own eyes, and they wished to regain their lost credit. A
dinner

dinner must be given in return; or a ball. But this, it was remarked, it was too late to attempt, and would only make things worse than they were. The debate grew warm; parties were made. The Spanish pride was alarmed, that strangers and prisoners should teach them hospitality. All this we learned afterwards from a friend, and that the gentlemen were setting on foot a publick ball for us. It is true that on the following day we received many invitations from individuals, and apologies for their not having been given sooner; but the cartel was now ready to fail, and we could not profit by the present liberal spirit.

Almost all our friends politely waited on us to the water side. The good Colonel Sherring was deeply afflicted at parting with Captain Hawkins, for whom he had contracted a most sincere friendship; and we had all reason to bear testimony to his politeness and generosity.

Provi-

Providence at length restored us to our friends, who for two months had concluded us to have been among the number of victims to the late hurricane.

F I N I S.



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ERRATA.

THE Reader is requested to supply the following ERRATA, which are alterations and omissions of part of the manuscript copy, owing to an accident while it was in the Bookseller's hands, and which the Author had not an opportunity to correct till the whole was printed off.

Page 3, Line 12 and 13, for *carry a sail and cast*,
read *set the fore-stay-sail to cast*.

Line 20, for *on*, read *as*.

Page 6, Line 12, after the words *ordered to be done*,
supply “ In the mean time the fore-top-
“ mast and mizen-mast also went, and their
“ weight to leeward very nearly overfet the
“ vessel.”

Page 7, Line 11, 12, for *post*, read *ports*; for *it*, read
they.

Line 16, for *omission*, read *remission*.

Page

Page 10, Line 1, for *their*, read *these*.

Page 13, Line 1, for *esteemed*, read *esteemed*.

Page 13, Line 2, for *caption*, read *caption*.

Page 14, Line 13, for *the cowards*, read *the cowards*.

Page 16, Line 2 to 7, alter the period thus: "The joy of our deliverance was soon, as on a former occasion, abated by the thoughts of our present condition, which was, at first view, infinitely worse than before."

Page 25, Line last, for *the*, read *these*.

Page 30, margin, for *and*, read *as*.

Page 31, Line 2, omit *and*.

Page 38, Line 16, for *is*, read *was*.



